



12

A Message of Hope

Key Passages

- Malachi 3:1a; Mark 1:2, 1:4; John 1:29

Lesson Focus

- After 400 years, Jesus would come.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the What God Wants Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear Malachi's message that Jesus, the Lamb of God, would come one day, and John the Baptist would prepare His way.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Malachi Role Play

Students will act out the message of Malachi in this simple role play.



Activity 2: Malachi Prophecy Booklet

Students will color a Malachi Prophecy Booklet to take home and share with their family.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one What God Wants Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- What God Wants Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print one each of two Lesson Illustrations to use during class.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Two Lesson Illustrations



MALACHI ROLE PLAY

- Print one copy of the Malachi Role Play Script from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print one set of four How Many Years Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Optional: Gather costume pieces such as robes, sheets, belts, etc.

- Malachi Role Play Script
- Four How Many Years Signs
- Optional: Costume pieces
- Optional: Signs saying "Jesus" and "John the Baptist" to tape onto your actors



MALACHI PROPHECY BOOKLET

- Print, trim, collate, and staple the four pages of the Malachi Prophecy Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Color one booklet to show as an example.

- Malachi Prophecy Booklet for each student
- Colored book to show
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one copy of the Follow the Leader Cards.
- Attach cards to chairs and tables around the room.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks
- Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

As we come to the end of our study of the Old Testament, we can begin looking forward to the events of the New Testament. In one sense, we have been looking forward through the whole study of the Old Testament as we considered the coming of the Messiah—Jesus Christ. The Scarlet Thread poster has been one of the tools we have used to try to understand how God has been orchestrating the events of history so that the Messiah would come into the world at the perfect time. In his first epistle, Peter makes it clear that the prophets of old were studying and prophesying about the coming of Christ.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10–12)

One of these prophets was Malachi. In our last lesson, we looked at how Malachi called the people to worship God rightly. God desires the right attitude in worship, rather than merely going through the motions of the religious ceremonies. In this lesson, we will be looking at how the close of the Old Testament, the book of Malachi, points forward to John the Baptist and his announcement of Jesus.

As is the pattern with many prophecies in the Old Testament, Malachi's message contains both statements about the present and the future. In Malachi 3:1 we read, "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me." Who is this messenger Malachi proclaims?

Later, God spoke of sending Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers and children toward one another (Malachi 4:5–6). But Elijah lived 500 years before Malachi, so how can this be? These were some of the mysteries that Peter was talking about in the passage above, and the answer to these questions was revealed a little over 400 years after Malachi recorded them. In fact, we learn about the identity of the Elijah-messenger from the mouths of an angel and Jesus.

About 400 years after Malachi was prophesying, the angel Gabriel visited the priest Zacharias while he was offering incense to God in the Temple. Gabriel told Zacharias that he would have a son whom he was to name John. John would have the spirit and power of Elijah and "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" to prepare a people for the Lord (Luke 1:13–17)—a direct connection to the prophecy of Malachi 4:5–6. We know this child as John the Baptist.

Malachi's role was to remind the Israelites that they were still waiting for the Seed of Abraham who would come to take away their sin. John's role was to announce the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah—the Lamb who would take away the sin of the world.

If there were any doubts about John the Baptist being an Elijah-like messenger spoken of in the prophecies of Malachi, Jesus made the connection clear in Matthew 11:7–15. Explaining the role of John, Jesus quoted Malachi 3:1 and explained the work of John in fulfilling the prophecy. Jesus said, "And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come" (Matthew 11:14).

We must note that later, Jesus told His disciples that Elijah was still to come and would restore all things (Matthew 17:10–13). And even John himself denied being Elijah (John 1:19–23). It seems that John came "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17), but did not completely fulfill Malachi's prophecy. Thus, it appears that this prophecy of Malachi is a near/far prophecy, speaking of John the Baptist as the messenger who would prepare the way of the Lord, but also of a yet future coming of Elijah "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Malachi 4:5).

After Malachi, there was silence—over 400 years of silence. No prophet was on the earth, speaking on behalf of God, until John the Baptist's ministry began. This period of time is often referred to as the 400 silent years because of the lack of any word from God. God was only speaking through what had already been recorded by the previous writers of the Old Testament Scriptures, but those writings contained plenty for the Israelites to consider until the coming of Messiah.

Some have described the Old Testament as a sign with an arrow pointing forward to Jesus. Whether we use Messiah, Christ, or Savior to refer to Jesus, all of these titles point to the deliverance of His people from their sins. The sacrifices offered under the Law of Moses were a shadow of the perfect and complete work of Jesus. The offering of Isaac and the ram that replaced him was a shadow of the sacrifice on the Cross. God brought about this plan according to His perfect timing.

All of these things were a part of God's plan throughout the history of the world He had created. All of history was marching forward to the day when Jesus Christ would come to live a perfect life, die as a sacrifice for sin upon the Cross, and then rise again to life to signify the conquering of sin and death. We can now partake of this perfect plan of redemption through our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The 400 silent years are also referred to as the Intertestamental Period. Although God was not speaking through prophets at this time, there was much going on in the world according to God's sovereign direction. Daniel had seen visions of kingdoms that would rise and fall after the Babylonian Empire began to crumble. Many of these kingdoms and empires rose and fell during these 400 years. From the Persians to the Greeks to the Romans, control over the Middle East changed hands several times during this era.

During this time, Alexander the Great ruled the Greeks (circa 336 BC) followed by four of his generals. After Alexander, the Jews were free to practice their religion under the supervision of the Ptolemaic rulers of Greece. This all changed under the persecution of the Seleucid king, Antiochus Epiphanies, who sacked Jerusalem in 167 BC, setting up a statue of Zeus in the Temple and offering pigs as a sacrifice on the altar. In response, a group of zealous Jews rebelled against the Greeks. This revolt came to be known as the Maccabean revolt under the leadership of Judas Maccabaeus. This group retook Jerusalem, though greatly outnumbered, and purified the Temple. The Jewish feast of

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, was celebrated and is commemorated to this day.

Though there was no inspired writing during this period, there are historical records. In the Apocrypha, the books of 1 and 2 Maccabees record the events of the revolt, but this is not Scripture. In fact, at several points in 1 Maccabees, the writer makes it clear that there were no prophets in Israel at the time. While these books can shed some light on select historical events, they are not infallible and offer no light to guide our path as do the true and sure words of Scripture.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, I am in awe of you. How you love your people. Such a contrast! The people were sacrificing defiled animals. All the while you were fully committed to laying down your life for them—for me! You generously left them with hope before the 400 years of silence. You promised to come and bring redemption even while they were living in darkness. Messiah, my Savior, my Lord, when I was a sinner, you still loved me. You redeemed my life from the pit. Lord, I pray you will open the eyes of my students to see this wonderful plan of redemption. Show them, Lord, that your ways are better than the ways of the world. Draw them through your Spirit and Word to the truth and abounding hope the Gospel brings.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the What God Wants Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, two Lesson Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.

I'll start. Dear God, you are an awesome God. I want to thank you for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to Lesson 11 Flip Chart. **Last week we talked about a prophet who had to tell the people of Israel that they were not worshipping God the right way.**

- ? **What was his name? Do you remember?** *Give hints to help your students remember the name. Malachi.*

That's right. It was Malachi. Malachi wrote a book of the Bible, too. It's the last book in the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written BEFORE

Jesus came. And the New Testament was written AFTER Jesus came. *Show the Old and New Testaments in your Bible.*

Now, remember we read in the book of Malachi that the priests were disobeying God. They were not bringing their BEST food and animals for sacrifice. The people had turned away from God, and God used His prophet Malachi to speak to them. God punished the priests for disobeying Him. Remember, the priests were messengers for God, and they were supposed to teach the people the laws of God. But instead, they were leading the people into sin against God. This was not good for God's people.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. But God had another message for the people. This message was not about punishing the people. This message was a message of hope. You see, even though the people were not obeying God, God had a plan for them. This was a good plan, and Malachi told the people about it. That is what we are going to read today. Let's open the Bible to the book of Malachi. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

Now listen carefully. Remember, this is God speaking through His prophet Malachi. *Read Malachi 3:1a emphasizing "messenger" and "prepare the way."*

? What did He say He would send? *A messenger.*

? Do you know what a messenger is? *Allow discussion.*

A messenger is someone who brings a message. He tells people something they don't know. God told the people, through Malachi, that He would send a messenger someday with something important to tell everyone.

? What else would this messenger do? *Re-read Malachi 3:1a. Prepare the way.*

The messenger would prepare the way for somebody. But who would the messenger be? *Refer to Flip Chart.* And who would he prepare the way for? I'm going to turn to the New Testament now to the book of Mark. The New Testament was written after Jesus was born. That was a long time after Malachi—more than 400 years later! *Show Lesson Illustration 1. Count the years by 100s. That's a long time!*

Let's see what the Bible says about the messenger. Listen to this. *Read Mark 1:2 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? Who was God going to send? *A messenger.*

? What would the messenger do? *Prepare the way for someone.*

? This sounds familiar. Didn't we just read this in Malachi? *Yes.*

Yes. We just read this! But it was way back here in the Old Testament. In the book of Malachi. *Turn back to the book of Malachi. Re-read Malachi 3:1a pointing out the similarities.* Do you see? God told Malachi to tell the people that a messenger

Malachi 3:1a

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Mark 1:2

Mark 1:4

would come, and he would prepare the way for someone. And now we see the same thing in the book of Mark! In the book of Mark, the messenger had arrived! But who was it? Listen to this. It tells us who the messenger was. *Read Mark 1:4 emphasizing "John."*

? Did you hear his name? Who was the messenger that came? *John.*

Show Lesson Illustration 2. Yes! FINALLY, the messenger that Malachi talked about 400 years before had come. He was John the Baptist. And he had a very special message for the people. John told the people to prepare the way and be ready. Because someone was coming—someone VERY special.

? Do you know who John the Baptist was talking about? *Allow discussion.*

We can find the answer in God's Word. I'm going to read from the book of John. It's in the New Testament, too. Listen now as I read. God sent John to tell the people who was coming soon. *Read John 1:29 emphasizing "Jesus."*

? Did you hear the answer? Who did John see? *Jesus.*

That's right! It was Jesus! Listen again. *Re-read John 1:29.*

? What was Jesus doing? *Refer to Flip Chart. Coming toward him.*

? What did John say when he saw Jesus? *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

? What? John said this was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? Who is the Lamb of God? *Allow discussion. Jesus.*

Yes. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Lamb of God. And He came to save sinners. *Refer to Flip Chart.* God gave the people a promise through His prophet Malachi that a messenger would come and prepare the way for Jesus! That messenger was John the Baptist. And God sent John the Baptist to give His message. It was 400 years after Malachi lived, but finally, John came and told the people about the Lamb of God—Jesus—who would come into the world to take away sin.

Remember, the Old Testament AND the New Testament are both parts of God's Word—the Bible. And the Bible tells us that God always had a plan—from the very beginning when He created everything. God knew that Jesus would come one day to die for sinners and bring forgiveness. God didn't forget about His people. He gave them a promise through Malachi in the Old Testament—and 400 years later John the Baptist told the people about Jesus in the New Testament! We can learn about Jesus

when we read and study the Old Testament AND the New Testament. The whole Bible points us to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Jesus is the Lamb of God. He's the only one who can forgive sins. When we are truly sorry for our sin and turn away from it, we can be forgiven. Our hearts can be made clean through Jesus. Let's sing the song about a clean heart. Sing "Clean My Heart" together once or twice.

Refer to the Flip Chart Song Page. Jesus had to come because God is holy and just. That means that God can't look at sin and has to punish all sin. We should be punished for our sin. But God is rich in love, and He sent Jesus to take that punishment for everyone who would believe in Him! Jesus is the Lamb of God, the only one who can forgive sin. Let's stand up and sing about that in the song "Because He Is Just." Sing the song together with stomping and clapping.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's practice our memory verse now. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times with enthusiasm!

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Malachi Role Play

MATERIALS

- Malachi Role Play Script
- How Many Years Signs: 100 Years, 200 Years, 300 Years, 400 Years
- Optional: Costume pieces such as robes, sheets, belts, etc.
- Optional: Signs saying "Jesus" and "John the Baptist" to tape on your actors.

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Malachi Role Play Script as a guide, have the students act out the lesson using the signs, props, and costume pieces. You can guide the students as you read the script. Prompt the students with what to say.

We're going to act out what God told Malachi to share with the people. I will choose some of you to help me. Repeat using other children or switching roles, if time allows.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God gave the people a promise of hope through the prophet Malachi. He said that a messenger would come one day and prepare the way for someone very special. 400 years later, John the Baptist came and prepared the way for Jesus—the Lamb of God.



Malachi Prophecy Booklet

MATERIALS

- Malachi Prophecy Booklet for each student
- Colored book to show
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, trim, collate, and staple the four pages of the booklet. Students will color the pictures.

Show your colored book as an example. This is the book we're going to make today. It reminds us of the message God sent to the people through Malachi. We are going to color the pages, and you can take it home and tell your family about the Lamb of God—Jesus!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Briefly discuss each page and read the booklet. The first page of our book shows Malachi telling the people about a promise of hope from God. Malachi told the people that God would send a messenger. Page 2 reminds us that it was 400 years later before God's promise came true. On page 3, we see John the Baptist. He was the messenger that Malachi told about. And John's message was that Jesus is the Lamb of God. And on page 4, the Cross reminds us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for sinners so all who would believe in Him would be forgiven.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them . . .

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards attached to chairs and tables around the room
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to a chair or table and place them around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move around to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity if time allows and/or have students take turns leading.

We're going to practice our memory verse. **Let's say it first.** *Point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.*

Good job! Now we're going to play a Follow the Leader game. I'm going to lead you around the room, and when we come to a chair or table with a sign on it, we will stop and do what the sign says while we say our verse together. So everyone line up. Follow me!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Lord is our Creator. We talked today about how God always planned that Jesus would make a way for sinners to be forgiven. God knew from the very beginning that Jesus was going to be the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

The book of Malachi ended the Old Testament. The people in Malachi's time had turned away from God. But Malachi left them with a promise from God! There would be a messenger who would come and prepare the way for Jesus! That messenger was John the Baptist. God waited 400 years! But finally, John the Baptist came. And he told the people about Jesus! Jesus is the Lamb of God who offers forgiveness of sins to all who will turn away from their sins and believe in Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

All through the Old Testament, the Bible tells us about Jesus. Then at the end of the Old Testament, in the book of Malachi, God told Malachi to tell the people about a promise of hope. That promise didn't come true for 400 more years! But that doesn't mean God forgot. No, God's plan is always perfect. He knows just the right time for everything. And 400 years later God's promise came true through John the Baptist and through Jesus. God's Word is all true—the Old Testament and the New Testament. And they both point us to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His special Word that's all true.
- Praise God for giving us forgiveness of sin through Jesus.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to read, memorize and learn from God's Word every day.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NEHEMIAH 9:6

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout, "Nehemiah 9:6!"

You alo-one,

(Are you sleeping?)

Are the Lo-ord;

(Are you sleeping?)

You-have-made heav'n,

(Brother John.)

The heav'n of heavens,

(Brother John.)

With a-all their-eir ho-ost,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The earth and ev'rything on it,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The-seas and all—

(Ding, ding, dong,)

That-is in them.

(Ding, ding, dong.)

CLEAN MY HEART

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

In my heart, what does God see?

(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

Is He the one I want to please?

(For the Bible tells me so.)

Or does my heart need help, Oh Lord?

(Little ones to Him belong.)

Clean out the sin and make it yours!

(They are weak, but He is strong!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Please, clean my heart today!

(The Bible tells me so!)

BECAUSE HE IS JUST

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Clap, stomp, whisper, and yell when singing "all our sins."

God must punish all our sins, all our sins, all our sins.

(London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down.)

God must punish all our sins because

He is ju-ust!

(London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady.)

But God also will forgive, will forgive, will forgive.

(London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down.)

But God also will forgive through

Jesus Chri-ist.

(London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady.)

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.